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Association of Ground Water Agencies

June 17, 1998

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Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. ~~Snow~~: *Lester*

The Association of Ground Water Agencies (AGWA) is comprised of the following agencies:

- Chino Basin Watermaster
- Kern County Water Agency
- Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
- Mojave Water Agency
- Orange County Water District
- Raymond Basin Management Board
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District
- Upper Los Angeles River Area Watermaster
- Water Replenishment District of Southern California
- Western Municipal Water District

The AGWA Board of Directors on June 15, 1998 adopted the enclosed policy principles for a CALFED Bay-Delta solution (Enclosure 1).

In addition, AGWA notes that the potential for increased groundwater conjunctive use in Southern California was not addressed or discussed in the draft programmatic EIS/EIR. CALFED has identified a target of 500,000 AF of groundwater conjunctive use storage for south of the Delta in San Joaquin Valley. We would recommend that CALFED consider the potential for increased conjunctive use storage in Southern California as a part of the CALFED storage requirements evaluation in the development of a preferred alternative.

Members:

- Chino Basin Watermaster
- Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
- Mojave Water Agency
- Orange County Water District
- Raymond Basin Management Board
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- Tehachapi-Cummings County Water District
- Upper Los Angeles River Area Watermaster

Water Replenishment District of Southern California

Western Municipal Water District

Affiliates:

- Basic Compliance Engineering
- Bookman-Edmonston Engineering, Inc.
- CH2M Hill
- Montgomery Watson
- Psomas and Associates
- San Gabriel River Water Committee
- Stetson Engineers Inc.

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Enclosed is a paper prepared by AGWA that summarizes both the potential and the issues with implementing conjunctive use in Southern California (Enclosure 2). At a MWD/AGWA facilitated workshop held on May 27-29, 1998, priorities were developed on how to enhance conjunctive use management in California. A key priority was the lack of sufficient Federal, State, and Regional financial incentives to encourage groundwater use to meet statewide water needs, Priority 3 of the "Conjunctive Use Water Management Program" Workshop Report (Enclosure 3).

We would also recommend that CALFED consider developing a financing program to provide State grants for funding local conjunctive use projects that provide statewide storage benefits.

\$500 million State bond package	→ Feasibility Study: \$1 million for Southern California groundwater feasibility study.
	→ Funding support: State/Federal grant conjunctive use program (\$50 million cap per project).
	→ Fund demonstration projects (Year 2000-2005) to increase storage by 500,000 - 1,000,000 AF in Southern California.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the potential for groundwater storage programs in Southern California to meet the CALFED Bay-Delta Program objectives and reduce the need for expensive new surface reservoirs.

Sincerely,



William R. Mills Jr.
Chairman, Association of Ground Water Agencies

Enclosures

- 1.) Policy Principles for CALFED - AGWA
- 2.) Conjunctive Use Issue Paper prepared by AGWA, May 1998
- 3.) "Conjunctive Use Water Management Program" Workshop Report, May 27-29, 1998, Association of Groundwater Agencies and the Metropolitan Water District Southern California (National Water Research Institute)